GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3288
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2001
FIRE IN FORESTS
DUKHA BHAGAT

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether forests and forest wealth have suffered damages due to fire in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made/being made by the Government to check such incidents of fire?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (c) Approximately 3 million hectares of the country`s forest area is annually affected by forest fires in the country. Most of the forest fires are man made and are the results of biotic pressures on the forests. The problem gets compounded due to the fact that the State Governments are not spending adequate amount of money for cleaning of fire lines and hiring of fire watchers and other preventive and control measures. The losses from forest fires have been moderately estimated to be Rs.440 crore annually. The Central Government is implementing a plan scheme `Forest Fire Control and Management` since the VIII Five Year Plan with 100% Central assistance to the States. The situation was reviewed in 1999 and a Master Plan was prepared envisaging assistance to the State Governments based on identification of fire prone areas. The plan involves assistance to the Joint Forest Management Committees for fire prevention and control, taking help of latest satellite remote sensing technology in monitoring of forest fires and assessing the losses, preparation of fire danger rating systems and use of other traditional methods.